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No. 2

THE HISTORY AND PETROGRAPHY  
OF FROBISHER'S "GOLD ORE"

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CURATOR OF GEOLOGY

RESULTS OF THE RAWSON-MACMILLAN SUBARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1927-28

The story of Frobisher's "gold ore," which filled the coffers of unscrupulous alchemists and supplied one of the major sensations in the history of arctic explorations, dates back to 1576. In that year Captain Martin Frobisher (fig. 10), an Elizabethan seaman and adventurer, set out to explore the Arctic in quest of a northwest passage to Cathay, the modern China.

In 1497, John and Sebastian Cabot—father and son—sailing under the English flag, skirted the shores of Newfoundland. At that time the prevailing view of geographers was that North America was a collection of islands, through which a commercial passage to the Orient could be found. Twenty-three years later, in 1520, Magellan, a Portuguese in the service of Spain, discovered the southwest passage, through Capo d'Buono, round Patagonia. With the news of this discovery, the old conception of the configuration of North America underwent rapid modifications. The contemporary cartographers then concluded that North America was not a collection of islands but that it tapered to the north and that there existed a northwest passage around Labrador, leading directly from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This new conception was probably the source of Frobisher's belief in the existence of a sea route to the Orient by way of the northwest, rather than the Zeno chart, from which it has sometimes been alleged that Frobisher received his inspiration. Whatever the source of Frobisher's conviction may have been, the British public was intensely interested in any effort that might lead to the discovery of a northern passage to the shores of the Orient, for such a passage, if practicable, would shorten the sea route to the Orient by at least one-half and would provide a

solution to the vital national problem of matching the astonishing riches of the Spanish Main, which was closed to England.

The wealth which the Spaniards wrenched from all who fell under their sway and which poured into Europe was steadily lowering the purchasing power of the pound, and the increased cost of living was driving the English to distraction. Sporadic plundering of a few thousand ducats' worth of cargo by English buccaneers was not doing any great harm to Spain nor doing any great good to England. Something more substantial had to be done and done soon. Frobisher's proposed exploration in search of a route to Cathay in northern latitudes, therefore, was discussed in England with much the same enthusiasm and hope as the exploration of a southwest passage had been discussed in Spain and Italy a century before.

Born in Altofts, Yorkshire, in 1539, Martin Frobisher, when barely ten, was sent to London to his uncle, Sir John Yorke, for the advantage of a city education. Young Frobisher, however, showed little love for schooling. He whistled his time away at the Thames Estuary and was vastly more interested in ships and shipmen than in sitting on a counting-house stool. Sir John perceived the inclinations of his ward and shipped him on a vessel of the merchant fleet, bound for West Africa. Ten years later, when next heard of, Frobisher, now Captain Frobisher, and only twenty-four, had already been engaging in piratical ventures. Piracy, however, in those days, was a gentleman's game. It was not a felony nor were pirates looked upon with disfavor. Elizabeth occasionally signed orders to arrest them merely as a move to pacify the King of Spain.

With but a few brief respites, Captain Frobisher continued to rove the seas until 1572. In that year, ostensibly to advance good will at Madrid, the Queen outlawed piracy and set a limitation upon letters of marque. This sudden change in the governmental policy robbed Frobisher of his favorite occupation, but it gave him an abundance of time to foster actively his earlier ambition to find a sea route to the East beyond the Spanish rule by doubling the American continent to the northward.

Voyages of discovery, however, are costly undertakings. In spite of the Earl of Warwick's patronage, in spite of public interest, the paid-up capital for the polar expedition was only £1,600, not sufficient to finance it. In fact, it is questionable if the enterprise would ever have materialized had not one of the London merchants, Michael Lock, finally come forward and offered to be responsible for the anticipated deficit on the voyage.



FIG. 10. Sir Martin Frobisher. From Captain Richard Perry, *The Jeannette*. Negative No. 79188.

The expedition, consisting of two small barques, the *Gabriel* and the *Michael*, and a pinnacle, with a crew of thirty-five men (fig. 11), sailed from Blackwall on June 7, 1576—eighty-four years after Columbus led the way to the New World and forty-four years before the Pilgrim Fathers ventured from their island home to found Plymouth Colony.

The start was ominous. Hardly had the ships neared the east coast of Greenland before the pinnacle keeled over in a gale and went down with all hands. Close on this loss, the *Michael*, Owen Gryffyn commanding, deserted and sailed safely back home. Severely handicapped, but still determined, Frobisher went on alone. Rounding Cape Farewell he sailed northwestward until he reached an island at 62° 32' N. Lat. and 64° W. Long., which formed the north foreland of a great waterway. Frobisher called this foreland Hall's Island. After a brief stay he entered the adjoining waterway and succeeded in sailing over it for about one hundred and thirty miles to what is now known as "Frobisher's Farthest." He was frankly uncertain as to whether the passage was an arm of the Atlantic or a strait leading to the Pacific but he named it "Frobisher's Strait," and gave his crew to understand that the land to the right was the coast of Asia, that on the left the continent of America.

While in the "Strait" five of Frobisher's crew were lured away and captured by the Eskimos. All efforts for the release of the men failed and Frobisher was compelled to return home without them. He, however, succeeded in seizing one of the natives, whom he carried to England.

Back in London, Frobisher was pleasantly surprised to learn that he had not only sailed sixty leagues over the passage to Cathay but had discovered vast deposits of gold. It seems that among the souvenirs collected by the crew was a piece of black stone, "much like sea cole in colour." To test its ignitable virtues, the wife of the sailor who brought it home threw it into fire, where, instead of burning like coal, it "glistened with a bright marquesset of golde." The story of the incident soon spread and pieces of the stone were turned over to three different London goldsmiths, all of whom reported no gold in it. But the investors refused to admit that the stone was worthless. So they took it to an Italian assayist, Giovanni Baptista Agnello, then a resident of London, who, after "due tests," declared that the sample did contain gold and produced a few grains purporting to be from it. This aroused

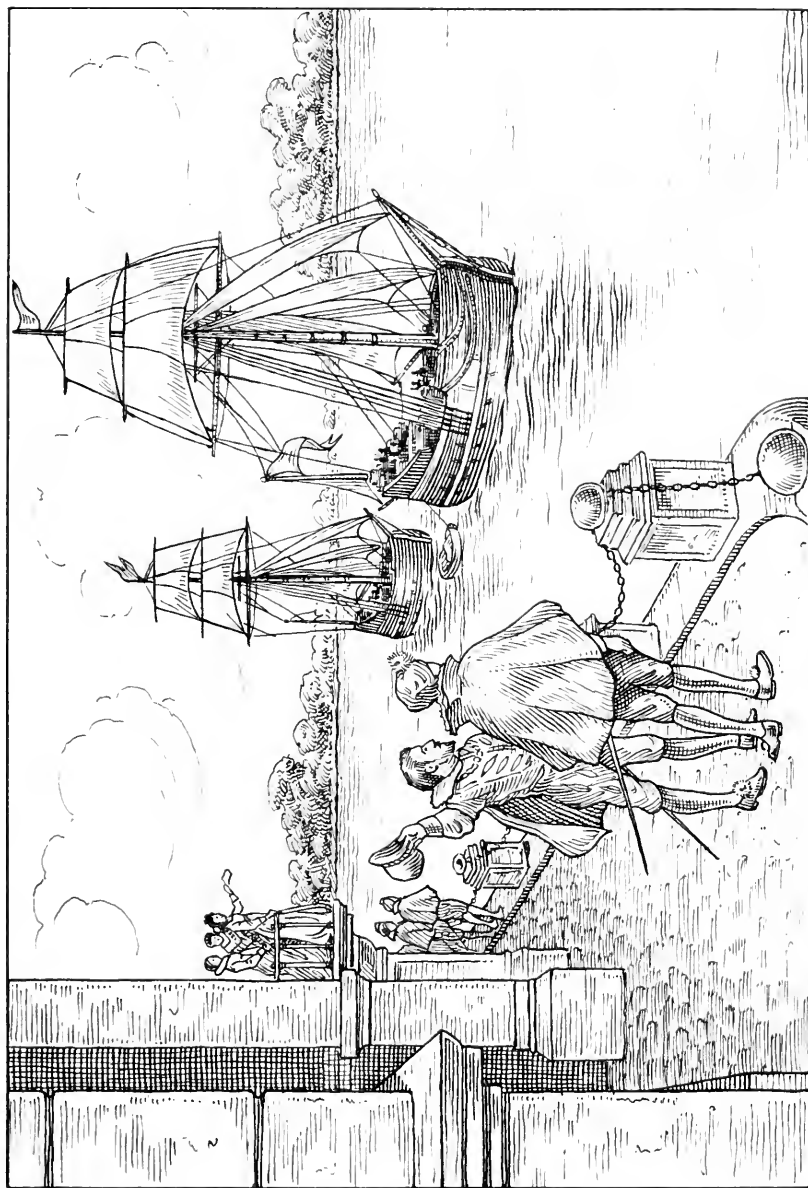


FIG. 11. Frobisher passing Greenwich. His ships were clumsy, round coastal barks, blunt-hooved, with a high, slanting poop and a level-raised deck forward. The sail plan, with the exception of the two square sails above the mainsail, was similar to that of a modern yawl. From Captain Richard Perry, *The Jeanette*. Negative No. 79189.

considerable controversy, and the wily Agnello, when asked how he happened to find gold where all his brother assayists had failed, replied in Italian, "*Bisogna sapere adulare la natura.*" (It is necessary to know how to coax nature.)

Michael Lock, who had much real gold tied up in this enterprise and who saw the way the tide was moving, was the first to seize the opportunity. Hastily he formed the Cathay Company and appointed Captain Frobisher High Admiral of Cathay and of the passage leading thereto. New shareholders were charged a stiff levy to pay for the eight hundred pound deficit on the first voyage. The total cost of outfitting a second expedition was four thousand pounds, of which the Queen subscribed one-fourth. She also approved the loan of the Navy's two hundred ton ship, the *Aid*. The *Gabriel* and the *Michael*, which had proved seaworthy on the last expedition, made up the rest of the fleet, and Captain Frobisher, a bit bewildered at the lucky turn of fortune the little black stone had brought upon him, once again weighed anchor from Blackwall with 120 men on board. It was Whit-Sunday, May 26, 1577.

Aided by following winds, the fleet arrived in Frobisher's "Strait" on the eighteenth of July, and eleven weeks later, after a tempestuous passage, during which the Master of the *Gabriel* was washed overboard and lost, returned to England with two hundred tons of "ore" in the ships' holds. The ships were not filled to capacity but, to quote George Best, the historian of the voyage, "It was good time to leave; for as the men were well wearied, so their shoes and clothes were well worn out, their tools broken, and the ships reasonably well filled. Some with overstraining themselves received hurts not a little dangerous, some having their bellies broken and others their legs made lame." Long drifts in the hillsides, evidences of frantic digging, may still be seen today across Countess of Warwick Island (fig. 12), some thirty miles northwest of Hall's Island (see Map), where the black stone of the first voyage was supposed to have been picked up.

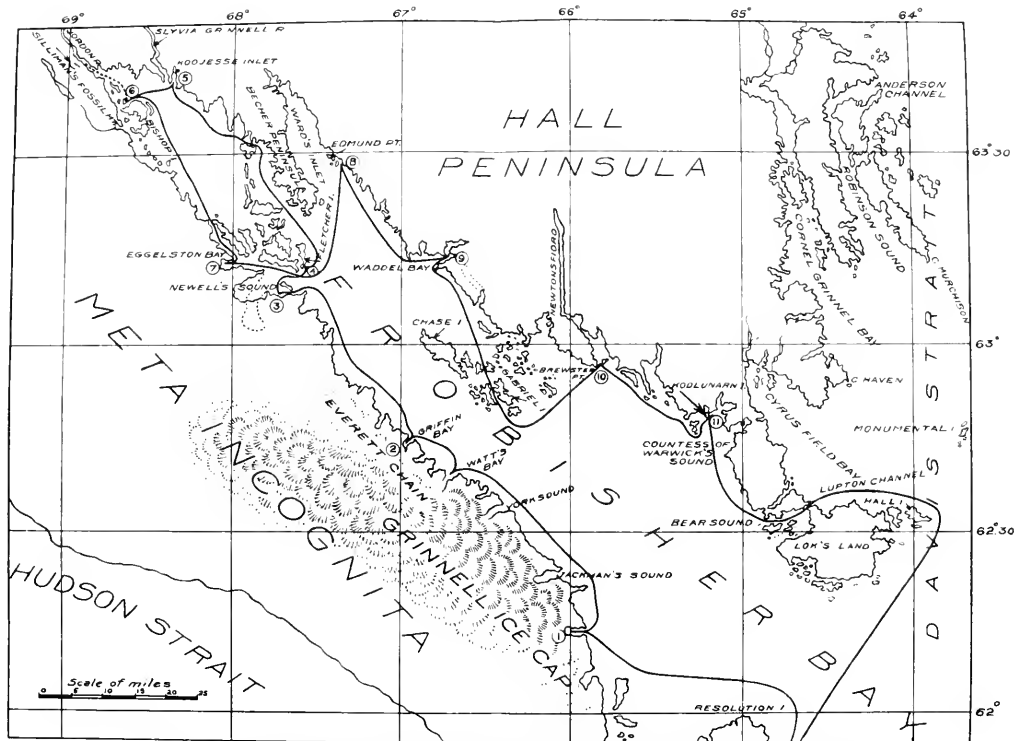
A special commission of reputed "experts" in mining and metallurgy was appointed immediately by the Court to look thoroughly into the nature of the ore. The evidence on which the opinion of these gentlemen rested was not made known, but they reported that the ore was very rich, worth forty pounds sterling to the ton, or eight thousand pounds sterling in all, a highly profitable return on the investment. Following this official report the "ore" was lugged to the dungeons of Bristol Castle and locked under four great locks!



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THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY MADE BY THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE IN THE YEAR 1861



SKETCH MAP OF FROBISHER BAY, BAFFIN LAND. ARROW NEAR ANCHORAGE 11 POINTS TO APPROXIMATE POSITION OF COUNTESS OF WARWICK ISLAND, KNOWN TO ESKIMOS AS KODLUNARN OR WHITE MAN'S ISLAND

The prestige of Cathay Company was enormously increased. It was no longer dealing with a dubious speculation beyond the unknown sea! Many who had not invested previously were now eager to subscribe. Michael Lock, the astute promoter, disappointed none. Twelve thousand pounds were promptly raised and fifteen ships, varying from twenty to two hundred tons, were placed at Frobisher's command for a third voyage. The personnel of the expedition, besides the regular officers and crew, consisted of one hundred picked men—miners and assayers—who were to establish a colony and build a fort to guard the gold deposits against the natives.

The fleet, largest in the annals of explorations, sailed from Harwich on May 31 and arrived at the mouth of Frobisher's "Strait" on July 1. Christopher Hall, chief pilot, sailing ahead, reported that the passage was blocked by an unbroken sheet of ice, but, in spite of the adverse report, Frobisher signalled the fleet to sail in. During the struggle to work their way through the ice, the *Dennis*, Captain Kendall in command, crashed against a berg and sank. Following this, the crew of the *Thomas of Ipswich*, its ardor chilled, mutinied, and forced the Master to set a course for home. Worse still, heavy fog rolled down the coast blotting out the view of land and sea for twenty days, and when, at length, it lifted, Frobisher found himself sailing up a hitherto undiscovered waterway. The fleet had drifted southward with the ice and was swept westward by the tide and current into what is now known as Hudson Strait. Had Frobisher been on a voyage of discovery he would have been glad to forget all about the gold and to continue sailing westward until he had seen the end of this new and promising channel; however, the search for gold being the object, he turned back.

On the last day of July, the fleet again entered Frobisher's "Strait" and assembled alongside Countess of Warwick Island, near which the "ore"—thirteen hundred tons of it—was mined and loaded by the end of the month. The question of founding a winter colony came up, but on examining the bills of lading it was discovered that the timber for the west and north sections of the proposed fort had gone down in the *Dennis*. There was also insufficient drink and fuel for a hundred men. This unfortunate combination of circumstances prompted Frobisher to abandon plans for leaving a colony there and strike for home. Apparently, Frobisher expected to be back again, for, before sailing, he built a small house in order to see what effect the climate would have on it by the ensuing year.

No cheering crowd gathered to celebrate the return of the fleet. The bubble had burst. The "precious ore" brought home on the second voyage had proved during the summer to be worthless stone. Frobisher was in the port of Dartford, now a part of the city of London, when the news reached him, but there was nothing he could do to remedy the situation. He dumped the rocks alongside the quay and went to London, where he was at once besieged by angry investors, who demanded an explanation. The man who was the first to venture into the American Arctic, who bore Elizabeth's pennant northward before Davis and westward before Hudson, and who attempted to plant the first colony in the icy wastes of the north, was now accused of every form of incompetence, of the



FIG. 12. Countess of Warwick Island, known to Eskimos as Kodlunarn Island. Negative No. 79190.

conduct of a mad visionary, and the crookedness of a swindler. Poor Michael Lock also was heavily compromised. Being the guarantor of the enterprise, he was called upon to meet the deficit, amounting to some six thousand pounds. He went about to collect the unpaid dues from the shareholders, but it was like adding insult to the injury. The final result was bankruptcy, followed by his imprisonment. He was eventually released but was ruined irremediably. Frobisher escaped a similar ignominy only through the intervention of the Queen. Always an admirer of brave men, she absolved him of all charges on the ground that there was no record that Frobisher ever claimed that he had found gold, and to further redeem his name from any obloquy that might otherwise have attached to it she gave him, in 1585, the command of the *Triumph*

against the Armada. With astounding audacity, Frobisher defended his ship against four galleons of vastly superior strength—a fight unsurpassed in the whole course of the war with Spain. For this, he was knighted by the Lord High Admiral on board his own ship at sea. A long and stormy career had received its final accolade.

On November 7, 1594, while in action against the Spaniards off Brest, Sir Martin received a ball-wound in the hip, which proved mortal. Thus died one of the ablest and most daring seamen of any age.



FIG. 13. Digging for relics in remains of Frobisher's house. Negative No. 79206.

During the 359 years that have elapsed since Frobisher returned from his third and last voyage of discovery with his supposed riches, the site of his mining operation on Countess of Warwick Island, known to the Eskimos as Kodlunarn or White Man's Island, has been visited and reported upon by only two expeditions. The first of these, in 1861, was composed of a single American, Captain Charles Francis Hall, and his Eskimo guides. Hall, seeking possible survivors of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition, visited Frobisher's "Strait," reached its headwaters and, for the first time,

brought to light the fact that the "strait"—the supposed passage to Cathay—was only a long bay. On his return journey from the head of the bay, he accidentally stumbled upon evidence of Frobisher's third voyage on Countess of Warwick Island. At that time, Hall was not familiar with Frobisher's voyages but he made a thorough search of the ruins, which he later found were linked inseparably with the activities of Frobisher. He also heard from his Eskimo companions the fate of Frobisher's five lost men. The story was that a great many years ago white men with big ships came there and that five of the crew, deserting their commander, became willing captives of the natives and roamed with their migratory captors. Later they returned to Countess of Warwick Island, where they built and rigged a boat with timber left by Frobisher's party and set off for home. Here the curtain falls, for neither the boat nor the men were ever seen again.

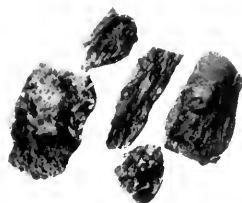
In 1927, the Rawson-MacMillan Subarctic Expedition to Frobisher Bay, of which I was a member, again visited Countess of Warwick Island. Our ship, the *Bowdoin*, Captain J. T. Crowell in command in the absence of Captain MacMillan, anchored alongside Countess of Warwick Island. We spent an afternoon and the following morning checking up Hall's description of Frobisher's ruins, but so completely and accurately had he made his observations that our visit could add little more than confirmation of all that he had reported.

Kodlunarn Island is situated at 62° 47' 30" N. Lat., 65° 10' W. Long., some thirty-five miles northwest of the entrance to Frobisher Bay. It is a low, rocky island, about 1,200 feet long and 900 feet wide, is without water, and supports no vegetation other than trailing ground willows, lichens, and reindeer mosses. It is so incredibly desolate and offers so little protection from the inclemencies of weather that a more forbidding place for setting up a colony is hard to imagine.

On the north shore of the island, which has a steep bank of about thirty feet, we found a deep canal some 110 feet long, 15 feet wide and 25 feet deep (fig. 15). Here Hall reports the finding of a large piece of iron, probably a bloom, pinned between excavated rocks. The canal may have been one of Frobisher's mining trenches, but it probably served as a dry dock for repairing small vessels. The shape and the uniformity of width and depth of the trench point strongly to the latter supposition. Southeast of this trench we saw another similar but smaller excavation. Hall calls this a



*a*



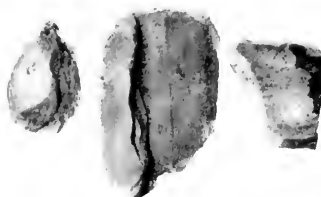
*b*



*c*



*d*



*e*

FIG. 14. Relics of Frobisher's house on Countess of Warwick Island. *a*, Chips of bricks; *b*, coal; *c*, flint; *d*, mortar; and *e*, tile. Negative No. 79194.

reservoir for fresh water and such it may well have been. Between the "ship's trench" and the "reservoir" there stand the ruins of two furnaces, with evidence of old fires and clinkers in them. Judging from their small size it is safe to say that assaying on any large scale could not have been carried on. The foundation of the experimental house, in spite of the fact that the natives had been picking



FIG. 15. A long excavation on the north shore of Countess of Warwick Island. It probably served as a dry dock for repairing small vessels. Negative No. 79205.

up whatever took their fancy or met their needs, was still visible. Digging around it (fig. 13) we found pieces of plaster, brick, porcelain, lime, coal, and a number of flint stones (fig. 14). The latter were, doubtless, used for "strike-a-lights." Dr. William Duncan Strong, my former colleague, now Senior Ethnologist at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., has in his possession a fragment of a dull black glazed porcelain with metallic slag adhering outside the rim, indicating that the vessel of which it formed a part had served as a crucible. On the east side of the island, facing the sea, we found a sort of crude stone breastwork such as the Eskimos erect for shelter when hunting. It may have been built to serve as a fortification. Near this stone structure, and most interesting of all, we noticed a small heap of rocks (fig. 16), some of which fitted the description, "much like sea cole in colour." These rocks are apparently foreign to the island, and, as evidenced by the



growth of mosses and lichens over them, they have not been disturbed since Frobisher's time. The "sea cole colour" of some of these rocks, their transportation from elsewhere, and their accumulation on the edge of the island whence they could be readily loaded into the ships' holds, strongly suggest that they were the few remainders of the thirteen hundred tons of "gold ore," which Frobisher and his men dug up and carried across three thousand miles of storm-tossed seas to swell the rock piles of England.

Curious as to the source of these black rocks, I combed the adjacent areas in search for it, but without success. The only rock that I could find in the vicinity and *in situ*, which to the layman might seem to contain gold, was a granular, greenish rock flecked



FIG. 16. A pile of lichen-covered rocks, mostly dark-colored—the supposed gold ore. Found on Countess of Warwick Island. Negative No. 79205.

with mica (fig. 18, *a*). A hand specimen of this rock, as well as one of the black rocks found on Countess of Warwick Island, is now in the lithological collection of Field Museum. The two are briefly described on pages 34–37.

The subsequent history of the two hundred tons of rocks brought home by Frobisher on the second voyage and locked in Bristol

Castle under quadruple locks is not available. But the cargo of the third voyage, consisting of no less than thirteen hundred tons of rocks, which Frobisher hurriedly dumped alongside the quay at Dartford, has recently been discovered in the course of drainage works there. Samples of these rocks were sent to the University of Cambridge, and Dr. R. S. Priestly, geologist of the First Shackleton Expedition, now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, on examining a specimen, found it to be *Amphibolite*,<sup>1</sup> consisting mainly of hornblende with a little pyrite and brassy yellow mica.

Another sample from the same source was examined more recently by Dr. C. E. Tilley of the University of Cambridge. He writes,<sup>2</sup> "We have here a large specimen showing a weathered surface. It is a dark granular rock—here I may interpolate that the phrase, 'much like sea cole in colour,' is not altogether inappropriate, as its appearance to the layman is somewhat that of coal—composed essentially of monoclinic pyroxene (augite) and hornblende. The petrographic name would be *Hornblende Pyroxenite*. In places and conspicuously on part of the weathered surface of our specimen, occur small plates of brown mica (biotite) which has a bronzy color characteristic of weathered biotite. It appears that this bronzy lustred mica was the cause of the 'gold rush.' This mineral and not pyrites then is the evidence of our specimen."

Of the two Field Museum specimens, the one that was found on Countess of Warwick Island is *Amphibolite*; the other, collected from a nearby outcrop, is *Pyroxenite*. The physical characters and mineral constituents of these two rocks are as follows:

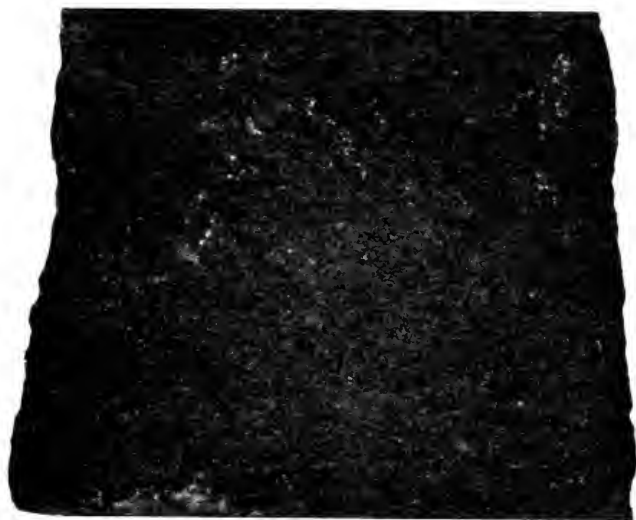
(1) **Amphibolite.** F.M. No. Li 3102, fig. 17, *a*, *b*. Obtained from a rock pile (fig. 16) on Countess of Warwick Island, Frobisher Bay, Baffin Land.

*Megascopic characters.*—The rock is black, somewhat resembling "sea cole in colour"; greenish black when freshly fractured; and greenish brown in thin section. Luster vitreous. Texture coarse, granular. Composed mainly of amphibole and pyroxene. Some of the amphibole crystals are interlocked; others show slight parallel arrangement. Specks of biotite may be seen with the aid of a hand lens.

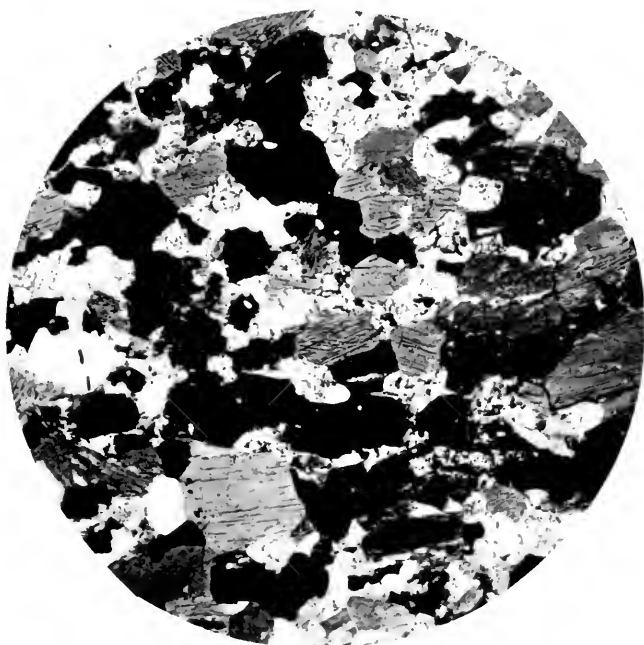
*Microscopic characters.*—The amphibole is hornblende; greenish brown and faintly pleochroic. It forms about 80 per cent of the

<sup>1</sup> From information received by Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Dr. Stefansson. Quoted by permission of Dr. Tilley.



*a*

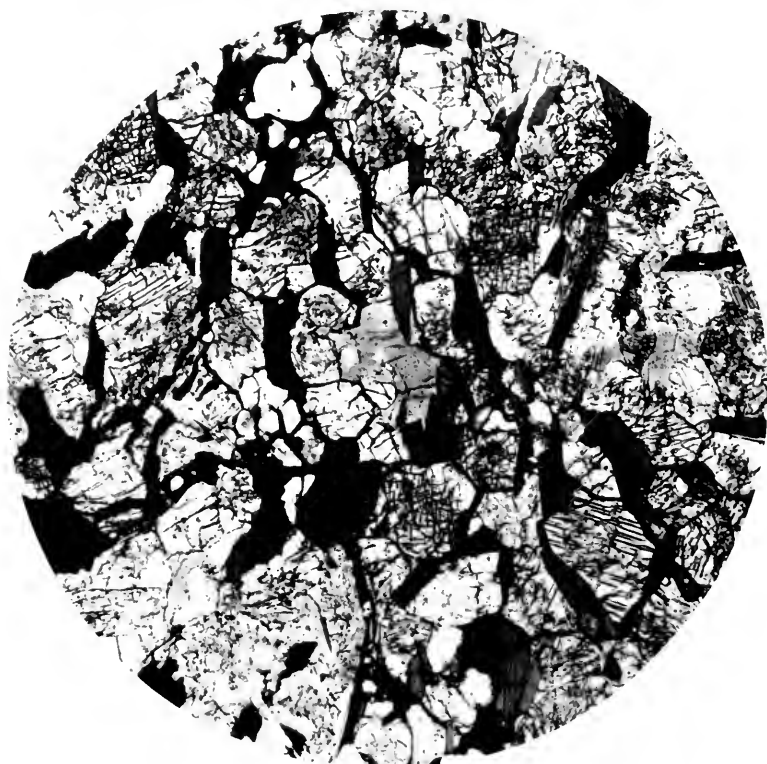


*b*

FIG. 17. Amphibolite. *a*, Specimen taken from the pile of rocks shown in Fig. 16; *b*, thin section of above amphibolite. Negative Nos.: *a*, 79192; *b*, 79186.



*a*



*b*

FIG. 18. Pyroxenite. *a*, Specimen collected from an outcrop near Countess of Warwick Island;  
*b*, thin section of above pyroxenite. Negative Nos.: *a*, 79191; *b*, 79185.

rock and may have been altered from omphacite. The pyroxene, which constitutes 10 per cent, is both augite and omphacite (diopside-like). Other minerals, composing the remaining 10 per cent, are calcite, sodic plagioclase, biotite, magnetite, ilmenite, and titanite, with a sprinkling of quartz, apatite, garnet, and zircon. The calcite fills the interspaces and is altered from garnet.

The nature of alterations of the minerals observed in this amphibolite strongly suggests that the rock is a metamorphic eclogite.

(2) **Pyroxenite.** F.M. No. Li 3108, fig. 18, *a*, *b*, collected from an outcrop, about two hundred yards from Countess of Warwick Island, Frobisher Bay, Baffin Land.

*Megascopic characters.*—The rock is dark green, coarsely granular and friable. Composed chiefly of green pyroxene, amphibole, and bronze-colored mica. It is a rock of distinct individuality and may be readily distinguished from any other rocks of the adjacent region.

*Microscopic characters.*—The pyroxenite is essentially an aggregate of augite (50 per cent) with high interference colors, prisms of hornblende (15 per cent), and strongly pleochroic, idiomorphic crystals of biotite. Other minerals are calcic plagioclase, apatite, zircon, and leucoxene; the latter two occur as sporadic grains.

The rock is liberally spotted with biotite, which imparts to it a distinctive sparkling surface.

It will be noticed that the Field Museum specimens are essentially the same as those identified by Dr. Priestly and Dr. Tilley. I am inclined to believe that the rocks brought back by Frobisher were chiefly basic, but that they represented more than one species and were both eruptive and metamorphic in origin. I have not found pyrite, which has probably precipitated more "gold rushes" than any other mineral, in the sections I have examined of the two Field Museum specimens, but it is likely that the mineral is sparsely disseminated and traces of it can be found in both specimens. I, however, favor Dr. Tilley's conclusion that it was the bronzy lustered mica and not the pyrite which was the real basis on which Signor Agnello and the so-called "experts" in mining and metallurgy succeeded in perpetrating one of the most amazing hoaxes in the history of maritime adventuring.

The total cost of Frobisher's three voyages, including the deficit, was £24,000, equal to about £600,000 (\$3,000,000) of the present coinage. This was a staggering sum, particularly when compared with the cost of Columbus' voyage of 1492, which was less than

£450. Furthermore, the immediate results of Frobisher's voyages, unlike Columbus', were unproductive. They enriched commerce not at all, and geographical knowledge only a little. Yet, it must be admitted that his voyages were not without significance. They did serve to fire contemporaries with emulative zeal. The grim saga of the American Arctic was begun when the doughty captain sailed out of Blackwall in quest of a northerly passage to Cathay.



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No. 3

ASTERISM IN GARNET, SPINEL, QUARTZ,  
AND SAPPHIRE

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BY ALBERT J. WALCOTT

ASTERISM IN GARNET

Two spheres of asteriated almandite garnet, respectively 1.86 inches and 1.47 inches in diameter, are on exhibition in H. N. Higginbotham Hall (Hall 31) of Field Museum of Natural History. The asterism of each sphere consists of four great circle, narrow, well defined chatoyant bands with definite angular relations to symmetry directions, and therefore with a definite angular relation to each other. The result is that at twelve identical crystallographic points on the sphere two bands intersect forming at each point a "four rayed star," thus forming twelve "four rayed stars" each with two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ .

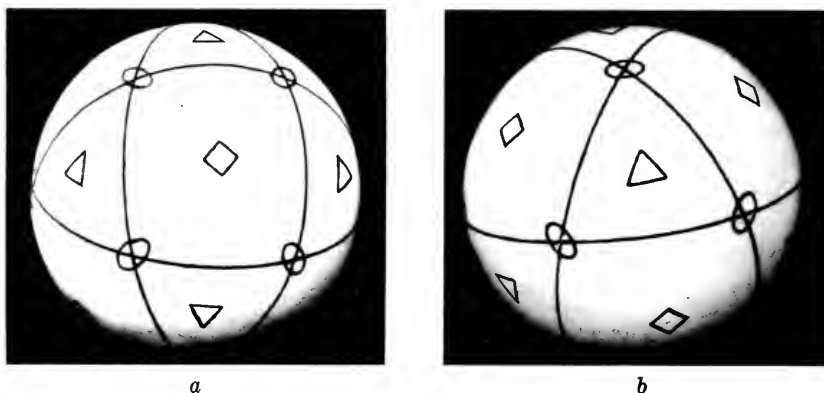
A microscopic examination of the spheres under strong illumination reveals an inclusion system of closely crowded, very fine, elongated crystals, much finer than the silk fibers of a cobweb. There are two sets of included crystals about each of the six axes at each of whose poles there is an intersection of two chatoyant bands. The elongated directions of the included crystals intersect to form two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ . These angles were determined by the usual method of measuring angles with a polarizing microscope.

The crystallographic relations of the included crystals and the chatoyant bands resulting from them may be visualized if the garnet sphere is considered as a projection of a rhombic dodecahedron.

Two sets of elongated crystals are parallel to each pair of parallel dodecahedron faces. These elongated crystals are also parallel respectively to two trigonal axes of symmetry which lie in a plane of symmetry designated by some authors as a diagonal plane of symmetry. The trigonal axes of symmetry intersect each other to form two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ . Hence, the

chatoyant bands which are produced by the included elongated crystals and whose planes are perpendicular to the elongated directions of the included crystals intersect at angles equal to the angles formed by the intersection of two trigonal axes of symmetry.

The plane of each great circle chatoyant band is perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry. If such a band is traced on a crystal model of a rhombic dodecahedron, it will be drawn across six faces of the zone whose faces and edges are parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry. If a similar band is traced for each trigonal axis of symmetry there will be four such bands, and two bands will be found to intersect on each rhombic dodecahedron face at the termination of a binary axis of symmetry. The two  $70^{\circ} 32'$  angles formed by this intersection are opposite the two  $109^{\circ} 28'$  angles of the crystal



□ = tetragonal axis of symmetry.    △ = trigonal axis of symmetry.    ○ = binary axis of symmetry

FIG. 19. Asterism of garnet sphere, Field Museum of Natural History. *a* shows four great circle chatoyant bands and four "four rayed stars." *b* three "four rayed stars."

face, and the two  $109^{\circ} 28'$  angles formed by the intersection of two chatoyant bands are opposite the two  $70^{\circ} 32'$  angles of the crystal face.

SUMMARY: The asterism on the sphere consists of four great circle chatoyant bands. The plane of each band is perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry. Two bands intersect at angles equal to the angle of intersection of the two trigonal axes of symmetry, to which the planes of the bands are respectively perpendicular. These intersections occur at each pole of the six binary axes of symmetry, thus forming twelve "four rayed stars" on the entire sphere. Each "star" forms two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ .

The asterism manifested by the garnet spheres may be explained as mainly a diffraction effect, produced by the system of regularly

included elongated crystals, of the light reflected from the interior of the spheres. A similar effect may be seen by looking through a fine mesh at a light having a dark background, such as a distant street light at night-time or the headlights of an automobile at a distance of one hundred yards or more.

A single cabochon cut garnet showing asterism was loaned for study by Mr. Henry Franklin of Louis Franklin Company, New York City. The asterism of this stone is identical with the asterism of the garnet spheres of Field Museum. It shows five "four rayed stars" on the upper surface which are identical with the "stars" on Field Museum spheres.

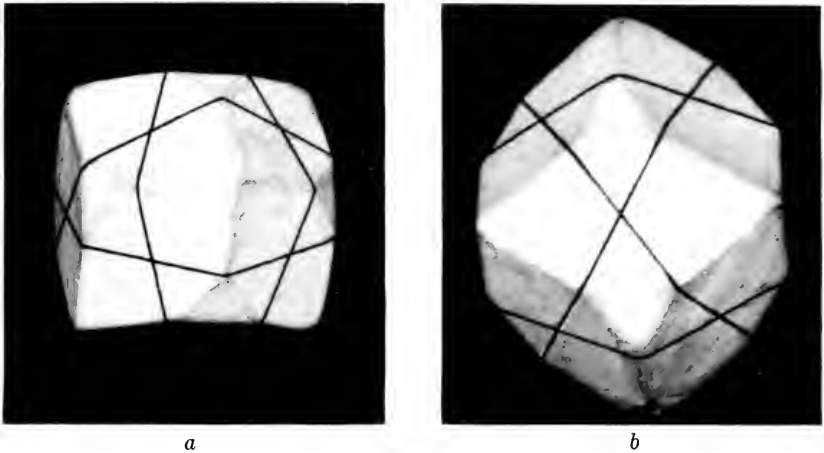


FIG. 20. Two views of model of a rhombic dodecahedron showing relations of chatoyant bands of *a* and *b* (Fig. 19) to crystal faces and to the trigonal and the binary axes of symmetry.

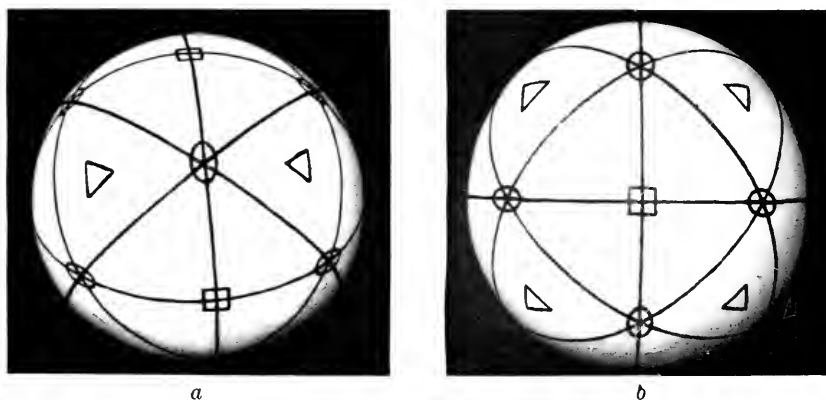
Another garnet, also cut single cabochon, was loaned by Mr. Theodore Pontius of the Chicago Lapidary. This stone is of particular interest because it shows on the upper surface seven chatoyant bands, seven "six rayed stars" and three "four rayed stars."

The asterism of this stone, like the asterism of the spheres, is caused by a system of included, very fine, elongated crystals. The relations of the included crystals and the chatoyant bands to the symmetry directions can be explained to advantage by considering how the phenomenon would appear on a sphere and how it would be related to a rhombic dodecahedron crystal of which the sphere may be considered a spherical projection.

In this stone there are three sets of included crystals about each of the six binary axes of symmetry. Each binary axis of symmetry

is perpendicular to a diagonal plane of symmetry. In each of the six diagonal planes of symmetry there are two trigonal axes of symmetry, one tetragonal axis of symmetry, and one binary axis of symmetry. The elongations of the three sets of inclusions are respectively parallel to the two trigonal axes of symmetry and the tetragonal axis of symmetry which lie in the diagonal plane of symmetry.

In a rhombic dodecahedron two opposite dodecahedron faces are parallel to each diagonal plane of symmetry. In such a crystal, having the inclusion system referred to above, there are three sets of included crystals parallel to each opposite pair of dodecahedron faces. The symmetry relations of the great circle chatoyant bands



□ = tetragonal axis of symmetry.    △ = trigonal axis of symmetry.    ○ = binary axis of symmetry.

FIG. 21. Asterism of a sphere of garnet having two sets of inclusions, one set parallel to the trigonal axes of symmetry and one set parallel to the tetragonal axes of symmetry. *a* shows seven great circle chatoyant bands, five "six rayed stars," two "four rayed stars." *b* shows one "four rayed star" and four "six rayed stars."

which would be produced on a sphere may be visualized if they are traced on a model of a dodecahedron. Four bands would have the same symmetry relations as the bands on the spheres of Field Museum. The plane of each band is perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry, and two bands intersect at each pole of the six binary axes, forming two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ .

The included crystals whose elongations are parallel to a tetragonal axis of symmetry would, on a sphere, produce a great circle chatoyant band whose plane is parallel to an axial plane of symmetry and perpendicular to a tetragonal axis of symmetry. The great circle chatoyant band passes through the poles of each of the two tetragonal axes of symmetry and the two binary axes of symmetry which lie in an axial plane of symmetry. Since there are three

tetragonal axes of symmetry all at  $90^\circ$  to each other, it is self-evident that the sets of inclusions whose elongations are parallel to these axes produce three great circle chatoyant bands whose planes are at  $90^\circ$  to each other. Two bands intersect at  $90^\circ$  at the poles of each of the three tetragonal axes and therefore form on a sphere six "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ . Since each band passes through the poles of the two binary axes of symmetry which lie in an axial plane of symmetry, it forms with the two bands which intersect at these points four "six rayed stars." The axial plane of symmetry bisects the two opposite angles of  $109^\circ 28'$  which are formed by the intersection of the two chatoyant bands. These bands are produced by the inclusions whose elongations are parallel to the trigonal axes of

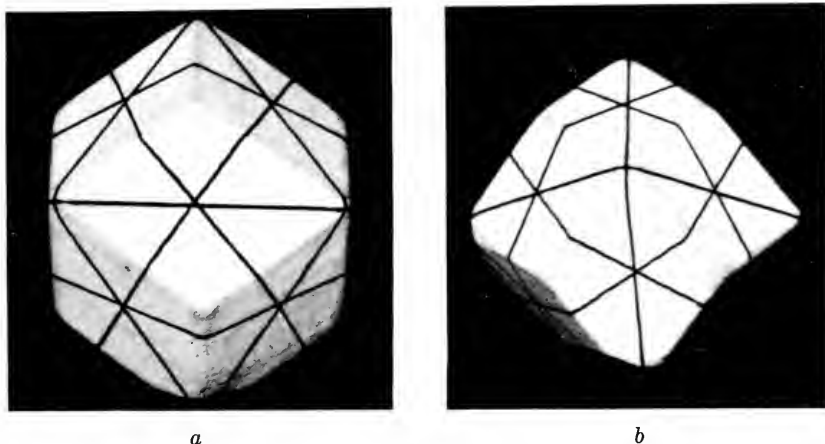


FIG. 22. Two views of model of a rhombic dodecahedron showing relation of chatoyant bands of *a* and *b* (Fig. 21) to crystal faces and to the axes of symmetry.

symmetry. The chatoyant band, therefore, whose plane is parallel to an axial plane of symmetry also bisects these angles, forming a "six rayed star" with four angles of  $54^\circ 44'$  and two angles of  $70^\circ 32'$ .

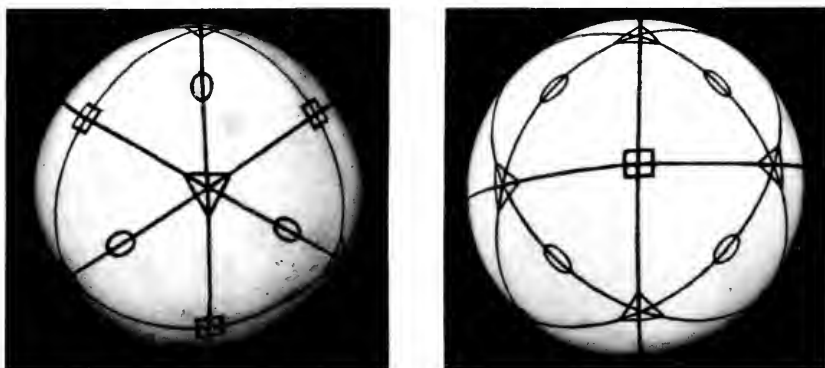
The asterism of a sphere of garnet with a system of inclusions like the single cabochon stone of the Chicago Lapidary would therefore consist of seven ( $4+3$ ) great circle chatoyant bands, twelve "six rayed stars" each with four angles of  $54^\circ 44'$  and two angles of  $70^\circ 32'$ , and six "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ . The planes of four of the great circle bands are each perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry. The planes of three of the great circle chatoyant bands are each parallel to an axial plane of symmetry and perpendicular to a tetragonal axis of symmetry. The direction of a tetragonal axis of symmetry is also the direction of a crystallographic axis.

### ASTERISM IN SPINEL

A gem stone, cabochon cut, showing well defined asterism was submitted for identification by B. J. Hersch of Frederick J. Essig & Company, Chicago.

From its optical and physical properties the stone was identified as a spinel. It is dark red in color and weighs a trifle over three carats. Near the center of the upper surface is a "six rayed star" with  $60^\circ$  angles, which may be clearly seen in a strong source of artificial light but shows up to the best advantage in direct sunlight.

The asterism of this stone is of special interest because there are three "six rayed stars" on the upper surface immediately above the girdle. Also, there are three "four rayed stars" a trifle higher



□ = tetragonal axis of symmetry.    △ = trigonal axis of symmetry.    ○ = binary axis of symmetry.

FIG. 23. Asterism of a spinel sphere. Inclusions are parallel to binary axes of symmetry. *a* shows six great circle chatoyant bands, four "six rayed stars," and three "four rayed stars." *b* shows one "four rayed star" and four "six rayed stars."

above the girdle than the "six rayed stars." This whole group of four "six rayed stars" and three "four rayed stars" is produced by the intersections of six narrow, sharply defined chatoyant bands.

An examination of the spinel stone with a microscope under strong illumination reveals an inclusion system of a large number of very fine elongated crystals. Around the center of each "six rayed star," over an appreciable area, there are three sets of included crystals whose elongations extend in three directions at angles of  $60^\circ$  to each other. The value of this angle was determined with a polarizing microscope, using the method for determining crystal angles or cleavage angles. It is quite evident that the system of included crystals produces the asterism in the spinel gem.

The relations of the chatoyant bands to symmetry directions may be visualized by assuming a spherical projection of an octahedron oriented so that a trigonal axis of symmetry is in a vertical position. Three binary axes of symmetry, intersecting at angles of  $60^\circ$ , lie in a plane perpendicular to the trigonal axis of symmetry. Three sets of included crystals are parallel to the pair of octahedron faces which intercept the vertical trigonal axis at  $90^\circ$ , and are respectively parallel to the three binary axes referred to above. This accounts for the  $60^\circ$  angles formed by the included crystals. Three chatoyant bands produced by the included crystals intersect at  $60^\circ$  on the octahedron faces at the terminations of the trigonal axis of symmetry.

The same condition with its resulting phenomenon prevails for

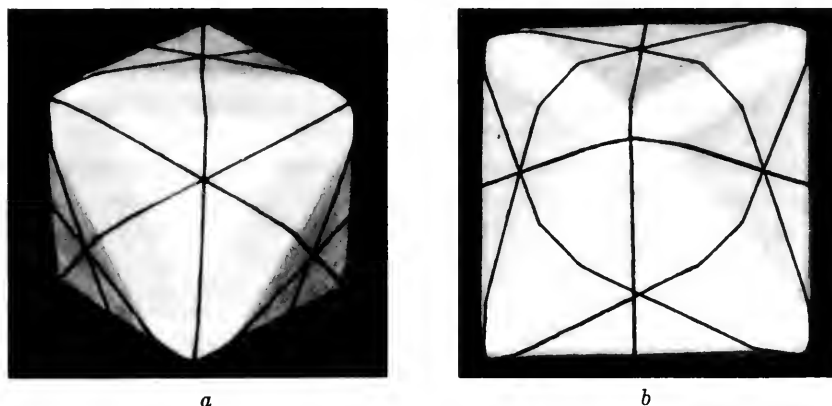


FIG. 24. Two views of a crystal model showing relation of chatoyant bands of *a* and *b* (Fig. 23) to crystal faces and to the axes of symmetry.

each pair of parallel octahedron faces. If a chatoyant band is traced on an octahedron, it will be found that the plane of this band is perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry and is parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry. The plane of the band therefore, includes one tetragonal axis of symmetry, one binary axis of symmetry, and two trigonal axes of symmetry. It will readily be seen that for the whole crystal there are six chatoyant bands.

The interesting asterism phenomenon described above may be visualized more clearly if the octahedron is projected on a sphere. A sphere of spinel with inclusions like the stone here investigated will show six great circle chatoyant bands. Three bands will intersect, forming angles of  $60^\circ$ , at each of the poles of the four trigonal axes of symmetry thus producing eight "six rayed stars." Two

bands will intersect at  $90^\circ$  at each of the poles of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry and therefore produce six "four rayed stars."

### ASTERISM IN CUBIC MINERALS OF THE HEXOCTAHEDRAL CLASS

The asterism manifested by the two garnet spheres, the spinel cabochon, and the garnet cabochon stones is of special interest because it corrects the erroneous idea which prevails generally that the only asterism possible in minerals of the cubic system is a "four rayed star" with angles of  $90^\circ$ . They illustrate four well defined types of asterism each of which is the result of a system of very fine elongated crystals occurring as inclusions whose elongated directions are parallel to axes of symmetry. The examples described show two types of "four rayed stars," one type with two angles of  $70^\circ 32'$  and two angles of  $109^\circ 28'$  and one type with four angles of  $90^\circ$ . The examples also show two types of "six rayed stars," one type with four angles of  $54^\circ 44'$  and two angles of  $70^\circ 32'$  and one type with six angles of  $60^\circ$ . In the garnet spheres the elongated directions of the included crystals are parallel to the trigonal axes of symmetry. In the cabochon spinel the elongations are parallel to the binary axes of symmetry, and in the garnet cabochon stone the system of inclusions consists of elongations that are parallel to the tetragonal axes of symmetry and also elongations that are parallel to the binary axes of symmetry.

A further search for asterism in minerals of the cubic system may result in discovering other manifestations of the phenomenon. Many other types are possible in minerals of the hexoctahedral class of the cubic system in which asterism is produced by inclusions of fine elongated crystals, as is the case in the examples available for study.

The possible arrangements of elongated included crystals in cubic minerals of the hexoctahedral class may be considered under the following three groups:

- Group I. Inclusions parallel to the trigonal axes of symmetry.
- Group II. Inclusions parallel to the binary axes of symmetry.
- Group III. Inclusions parallel to the tetragonal axes of symmetry.

The garnet spheres of Field Museum represent a possibility of group I consisting of the highest number of sets of inclusions possible in this group.

The spinel cabochon represents a possibility of group II consisting of the highest number of sets of inclusions possible in this group.



The cabochon garnet of the Chicago Lapidary represents a combination of the highest number of sets of inclusions possible in group I and group III.

It is possible for a cubic mineral of the hexoctahedral class to contain a system of inclusions of group III, in which there would be three sets of inclusions each parallel to a tetragonal axis of symmetry. The asterism that would result from this system of inclusions has been described (p. 42) in connection with the cabochon garnet in which this system of inclusions occurs in combination with the system of inclusions of group I.

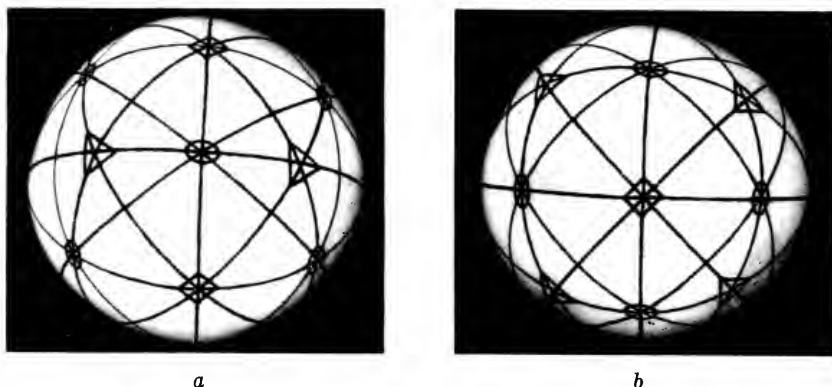
A cubic mineral with a system of inclusions consisting of a combination of the highest number of sets possible in group II and the highest number in group III would have nine (6+3) great circle chatoyant bands on a sphere. The bands would intersect to produce at the poles of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry six "eight rayed stars" with angles of  $45^\circ$ , twelve "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$  at the poles of the six binary axes of symmetry, and eight "six rayed stars" with angles of  $60^\circ$  at the poles of the four trigonal axes of symmetry.

If a cubic mineral of the hexoctahedral class should contain a system of inclusions consisting of a combination of the highest number of sets possible in group I and the highest number of sets possible in group II, ten (6+4) great circle chatoyant bands would appear on a sphere. The bands would intersect to produce twelve "six rayed stars" at the poles of the six binary axes of symmetry. Each star would have four angles of  $35^\circ 16'$  and two angles= $109^\circ 28'$ . Six "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$  would be formed at the poles of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry.

Another system of inclusions is possible consisting of a combination of the highest number of sets of inclusions possible for each of the three groups. In a crystal consisting of such a system there would be a set of inclusions parallel to each of the four trigonal axes of symmetry, to each of the six binary axes of symmetry, and to each of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry. On a sphere consisting of this system of inclusions there would be four great circle chatoyant bands whose planes would be, respectively, perpendicular to the four trigonal axes of symmetry. There would be six great circle chatoyant bands whose planes would be, respectively, perpendicular to the six binary axes of symmetry and parallel to the six diagonal planes of symmetry. There would be three great circle chatoyant bands whose planes would be, respectively, perpendicular to the

three tetragonal axes of symmetry and parallel to the three axial planes of symmetry. On such a sphere there would be thirteen  $(4+6+3)$  great circle chatoyant bands. These would intersect to form twelve "eight rayed stars" at the poles of the six binary axes of symmetry. Each "star" would consist of four angles of  $35^{\circ} 16'$  and four angles of  $54^{\circ} 44'$ . At each of the six poles of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry there would be an "eight rayed star" with all angles of  $45^{\circ}$ . There would be eight "six rayed stars" formed at the eight poles of the four trigonal axes of symmetry, with all angles of  $60^{\circ}$ .

To summarize the above possibility: A sphere with the inclusions considered here would show thirteen  $(4+6+3)$  great circle chatoyant bands, twelve "eight rayed stars" each with four angles of  $54^{\circ} 44'$



□ = tetragonal axis of symmetry.    △ = trigonal axis of symmetry.    ○ = binary axis of symmetry.  
 FIG. 25. Asterism as it would appear on a sphere having three sets of inclusions. *a* shows seven "eight rayed stars" and two "six rayed stars." *b* shows five "eight rayed stars" and four "six rayed stars."

and four angles of  $36^{\circ} 16'$ , six "eight rayed stars" each with eight angles of  $45^{\circ}$ , and eight "six rayed stars" each with six angles of  $60^{\circ}$ .

This is the most complex manifestation of asterism that can result from a system of inclusions. The hexoctahedral class is the most complex class of symmetry of crystals, and all the axes of symmetry of this class have here been considered.

The examples and possibilities given here of asterism resulting from inclusions of very fine elongated crystals in cubic minerals of the hexoctahedral class are the result of a system consisting of the highest number of sets or a combination of the highest number of sets for the axes of symmetry to which the elongations of the included crystals are parallel. It seems reasonable to consider that asterism may occur in cubic minerals in which one or more of the sets possible may be lacking. For example, in group I there are four sets of

inclusions if inclusions occur with elongations parallel to each of the four trigonal axes of symmetry. There are, however, three other possibilities in group I: (a) One set of inclusions with elongations parallel to one of the four trigonal axes of symmetry. (b) Two sets of inclusions with elongations parallel to each of two of the trigonal axes of symmetry. (c) Three sets of inclusions with elongations parallel to each of three of the trigonal axes of symmetry. The fourth possibility has been fully described. It consists of four sets of inclusions with elongations parallel to each of the four trigonal axes of symmetry.

The following is a list of the possibilities of asterism within each group, assuming that it is possible for included crystals to occur parallel to any number other than the complete set of the axes of symmetry of any one group. At the time of this writing, examples of such occurrences have not come to my attention.

#### GROUP I

- (1) One set of inclusions parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

Result: One great circle chatoyant band. The plane of this band is perpendicular to the trigonal axis of symmetry. On a rhombic dodecahedron the band may be traced on the six faces of the zone parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

- (2) Two sets of inclusions, each parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

Result: Two great circle chatoyant bands and two "four rayed stars" formed by the intersection of these two bands on opposite poles of a binary axis of symmetry. Each "star" with two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ .

- (3) Three sets of inclusions, each parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

Result: Three great circle chatoyant bands and six "four rayed stars." Each "star" with two angles of  $70^{\circ} 32'$  and two angles of  $109^{\circ} 28'$ . The stars are at the poles of three binary axes of symmetry.

- (4) Four sets of inclusions, each set parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

Result: Four great circle chatoyant bands, twelve "four rayed stars" formed at the poles of the six binary axes of symmetry.

Example: Two garnet spheres of Field Museum.

In each of the four possibilities mentioned above, the plane of each great circle chatoyant band is perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

## GROUP II

(1) One set of inclusions parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

Result: One great circle chatoyant band. The plane of this band is perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry and is parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry.

(2) Two sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry. The binary axes of symmetry lie in the same axial plane of symmetry and are at right angles to each other.

Result: Two great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry and parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry. The planes of the two bands are at right angles to each other. The bands intersect at the poles of the tetragonal axis which they have in common, to form two "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ .

(3) Three sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

Result: Three great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry. The plane of each is parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry. Two of the planes of the great circle chatoyant bands are at  $90^\circ$  to each other. Two "four rayed stars," angles of  $90^\circ$ , are found at the poles of a tetragonal axis of symmetry which two of the bands have in common as in (2). Four "four rayed stars" are formed at the poles of two trigonal axes of symmetry. Two angles of  $60^\circ$ , two angles of  $120^\circ$ .

(4) Four sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

Result: Four great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry, and the plane of each band is parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry. Two "four rayed stars" formed at the poles of a tetragonal axis of symmetry which the two planes of the chatoyant bands which are at right angles to each other have in common. The angles of these "stars" are  $90^\circ$ . Two "four rayed stars" formed at the poles of a trigonal axis of symmetry with two angles of  $60^\circ$  and two angles of  $120^\circ$ . Two "six rayed stars" formed at the poles of a trigonal axis of symmetry with angles of  $60^\circ$ .

(5) Five sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

Result: Five great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry. The plane of each is parallel to a diagonal plane of symmetry. Four "four rayed stars" formed

at the poles of two tetragonal axes of symmetry with angles of  $90^\circ$ . Four "six rayed stars" with angles of  $60^\circ$  formed at the poles of two trigonal axes of symmetry. Two "four rayed stars" with two angles of  $60^\circ$  and two angles of  $120^\circ$ , formed at the poles of a trigonal axis of symmetry.

(6) Six sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

Result: Six great circle chatoyant bands, each perpendicular to a binary axis of symmetry. Eight "six rayed stars" with angles of  $60^\circ$  formed at the poles of the four trigonal axes of symmetry. Six "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ , formed at the poles of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry.

This type of asterism is represented by the cabochon spinel of Essig & Company.

There are two other possibilities with inclusions parallel to the binary axes of symmetry:

(7) Two sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry.

The two planes of the great circle chatoyant bands may be at angles of  $60^\circ$  instead of  $90^\circ$  as in (9). In this case there are two "four rayed stars" at the poles of a trigonal axis of symmetry, with two angles of  $60^\circ$  and two angles of  $120^\circ$ .

(8) Three sets of inclusions, each parallel to a binary axis of symmetry. The three binary axes lie in the same plane perpendicular to a trigonal axis of symmetry. The result is three great circle chatoyant bands at angles of  $60^\circ$ . One trigonal axis in common.

From such an arrangement of inclusions two "six rayed stars" are produced at the poles of the trigonal axis of symmetry which the three chatoyant bands have in common. The asterism thus produced is identical with that produced in minerals of the hexagonal system.

Asterism that is produced by parallel arrangement of inclusions to binary axes of symmetry offers eight possibilities: Inclusions parallel to from one to six axes. There are two possible arrangements of inclusions parallel to two binary axes and two possible arrangements of inclusions parallel to three binary axes of symmetry.

### GROUP III

(1) One set of inclusions parallel to a tetragonal axis of symmetry.

Result: One great circle chatoyant band. The plane of this band is perpendicular to a tetragonal axis of symmetry and is parallel to an axial plane of symmetry.

(2) Two sets of inclusions, each set parallel to a tetragonal axis of symmetry.

Result: Two great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a tetragonal axis of symmetry and parallel to an axial plane of symmetry. The planes of the two bands are at right angles to each other, and the bands intersect at the poles of the tetragonal axis of symmetry which the two planes have in common, to form two "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ .

(3) Three sets of inclusions, each set parallel to a tetragonal axis of symmetry.

Result: Three great circle chatoyant bands, each plane perpendicular to a tetragonal axis of symmetry and parallel to an axial plane of symmetry. Their respective planes are perpendicular to each other. Two bands intersect at each pole of the three tetragonal axes of symmetry to form six "four rayed stars" with angles of  $90^\circ$ .

Possibilities resulting from combinations:

Each possibility that may occur with reference to any one of the axes of symmetry may occur in combination with any one of the possibilities for another class of axes of symmetry.

For example, the first and simplest possibility listed for group I may occur in combination with any one of the possibilities of group II. This is also true for any one of the other three possibilities of group I.

For group I and group II a minimum of 32 combinations are possible.

For group I and group III there are a minimum of 12 possibilities.

The four possibilities of group I may occur with each of the possibilities resulting from combinations of groups II and III. Since there are 24 possible combinations of groups II and III, the minimum number of combinations of the four possibilities of group I with the 24 possible combinations of groups II and III would be 96.

Total minimum number of possibilities, 179.

Summary of Asterism possibilities in the hexoctahedral class: Group I—Number of possibilities 4; group II—8; group III—3.

Possibilities from combinations: Groups I and II—Number of possibilities 12; groups I and III—32; groups II and III—24; groups I, II, and III—96. Total 179.

Examples are available for three of the above possibilities.

For completeness and continuity each example is here briefly reviewed.

(a) Garnet spheres of Field Museum represent possibility 4 of group I with four sets of inclusions each parallel to a trigonal axis of symmetry.

(b) Garnet cabochon of Chicago Lapidary represents a combination of two possibilities, 4 of group I and possibility 3 of group II.

(c) The cabochon spinel of Essig & Company represents possibility 6 of group III.

### ASTERISM IN QUARTZ AND SAPPHIRE

A specimen of clear, colorless, transparent quartz showing well defined asterism is on exhibition in H. N. Higinbotham Hall of Field Museum of Natural History. The stone is cut double cabochon, the upper part somewhat higher than a hemisphere, girdle circular, and is 14 mm. in diameter through the girdle.

A sharply defined "six rayed star" appears at the upper part in direct sunlight. It is of interest to note that a star is also formed on the upper part of the stone by transmitted light, if the lower part is held toward the direct sunlight. The crystallographic *c* axis extends from approximately the center of the base to very nearly the center of the top.

At the time this was available for study an asteriated rose quartz, single cabochon cut, 18mm. x 13mm. was made available through the kindness of Mr. Theodore Pontius of the Chicago Lapidary.

The asterism of these stones like the asterism of star sapphires and star rubies is an intersection of three chatoyant bands forming angles of 60° at the pole of the crystallographic *c* axis. Each band extends over the entire upper surface. A sphere of asteriated quartz would show three meridional chatoyant bands and two "six rayed stars." Several spheres were made of asteriated sapphires to verify this in the case of the star sapphire.

The chief interest in the asterism of the quartz specimens is to determine the cause of the phenomenon. Nothing can be seen with a microscope under ordinary illumination that might be interpreted as causing asterism. However, if the substage diaphragm is adjusted to admit a very narrow beam of light using artificial light and working in a room free from reflections and direct light from windows, with a magnification of 100x, a network of very fine striae may be seen. When these striae are observed, looking in the direction parallel

to the crystallographic *c* axis, it will be noted that they cross in three directions at angles of  $60^\circ$ .

The conclusion is that the system of striae is a system of included edges. These correspond to the horizontal striations on the prism faces formed there by an oscillatory development of the rhombohedron faces and the prism faces. When the habit of a crystal is a combination of a prism of the first order, a first order unit rhombohedron, and several modifications of the first order rhombohedron, a large number of very fine striations may be formed. Many of the striations are microscopic. When these striations become included in the crystal, they produce the phenomenon of asterism through a diffraction effect on light.

Many specimens of star sapphire have been examined to determine the cause of asterism in corundum. The entire collection of Field Museum was made available. In each of the sapphires examined there was found a system of a large number of very fine striae. If a polished convex surface is produced at one end of a crystal having well defined bipyramid faces, the chatoyant bands which intersect to form a "star" extend across the top in the planes of the crystallographic *a* axes. In other words they are perpendicular to the second order prism faces.

Asterism in sapphires as in quartz, spinel, and garnet is clearly a diffraction effect. In the specimen of clear quartz of Field Museum the star produced by transmitted light substantiates this. If any one of the bands of a star sapphire is examined in direct sunlight with a binocular microscope, a repetition of the spectrum colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue may be distinctly seen. This is identical with the effect obtained when a strong light against a dark background is observed through a very fine mesh.

In connection with asteriated corundum it is well known that star sapphires occur in far greater abundance than star rubies. To this it should be added that in general the prevailing crystal habit of star sapphires is a combination of several modified hexagonal bipyramids of the second order and sometimes a second order prism and a basal pinacoid, while the prevailing habit of the ruby is a combination of a hexagonal prism of the second order, rhombohedron of the first order and basal pinacoid. The oscillatory growth of the bipyramids produces on many crystals an abundance of striations. Such striations occur sparingly on the prevailing habit of ruby crystals because rubies with the prevailing habit of sapphire are found sparingly. The chance for crystals with an abundance



of included striations is therefore much more favorable for sapphire than for rubies.

A microscopic examination of the striae in the direct sunlight lying in the path of a chatoyant band reveals characteristics that are identical with the striations that occur on the crystal faces. The striations occurring on the crystals of quartz and sapphire are slightly wavy and jagged and in many instances interrupted, instead of continuous clean straight lines like the elongated included crystals of garnet and spinel. These same characteristics may be observed on the striae in asteriated crystals of quartz and sapphire.

In many star sapphires striae extend across the entire diameter of the stone. When a large percentage of the striae for each of the three directions extend in this manner, a fine network is formed by their crossing. In some sapphires such a network of striae crossing in three directions exists over the entire diameter of the stones. In some stones the network occurs in patches. There is generally a set of fine striae at  $90^\circ$  to each of the crystallographic axes. Many of these striae do not extend beyond the width of the crystal face on which they were originally formed. However, some extend in length and the result is that in a few small areas striae cross in two directions and in other places they cross in three directions. In some stones most of the striae extend only a few millimeters beyond their original length, and in such stones the striae form a hexagonal pattern.

Striae are flat and some appear slightly angular. Striae in the shape of rounded tubes have not been observed in this study. The width is a very small dimension, in many cases microscopic. The terminations of the striae which do not extend greatly beyond their original length commonly appear like short extensions of microscopically narrow cracks varying in length and generally show interference colors. These observations suggest that when the striae extend in length considerably beyond the striae originally formed on the surface of the sapphire crystal, the extensions are minute cracks. These extension cracks of the striae, which in many sapphires result in a network of crossing striae, crossing at angles of  $60^\circ$ , may have been produced under the severe metamorphic conditions to which these sapphires were subjected.

Striae vary considerably in size and number in different stones. Sharply defined narrow bands are produced by stones in which a hexagonal pattern is formed by fine striae and in which there is no appreciable amount of network. The chatoyant bands formed

in a stone in which there is a network of striae are generally feathery and are not sharply defined. While each of the three chatoyant bands is a diffraction effect of the striae which it crosses at right angles, some influence is produced by the other two sets of striae extensions, resulting in a feathery band. Coarse striae produce wide, irregular bands which are pronouncedly feathery. There are other factors which influence the quality of the chatoyant bands. Pronounced zonal development, twinning striae, and various inclusions absorb and scatter the light that enters the stone, and the chatoyant bands produced in such stones appear faded and dull.

In some stones striae occur mainly along one of the crystallographic axes; such a system of included striae produces a single chatoyant band, and if properly cut will yield a sapphire cat's eye.

### SUMMARY

Asterism may be produced in garnet and in spinel by an inclusion system of very fine elongated crystals, the elongated directions being parallel to axes of symmetry.

There are two types of "four rayed stars" and two types of "six rayed stars" on the garnet and spinel stones available for study. "Four rayed stars" and "six rayed stars" occur on each of a cabochon garnet and a cabochon spinel.

A third type of "six rayed star" is possible on a stone whose system of inclusions consists of elongations parallel to each of the four trigonal axes of symmetry and to each of the six binary axes of symmetry.

Two types of "eight rayed stars" would result from a system of inclusions whose elongations are parallel to each of the thirteen axes of symmetry.

Asterism is produced in quartz and in corundum by a system of fine striae which appear to be included striations formed by an oscillatory growth of two or more crystal forms on one crystal. The striae are parallel to the prism of the first order in quartz and to the prism of the second order in corundum.

In many sapphires the striae extend in length beyond that of the striations originally formed on the crystal. These extensions appear to be minute cracks which may have been produced under the influence of metamorphism.

Asterism is a diffraction effect caused by a system of very fine included crystals in garnet and in spinel and by a system of fine striae in quartz and in corundum.

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